



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

Bio Sheet



Rebecca Timmen

ELAC Representation: Washington State Department of Health

Occupation: State Coordinator for Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

City/Region: Washington State (Office in Tumwater)

Getting to know YOU:

What drew you to early learning?

I had been working in prevention in various community health settings (hospital, clinic, non-profit) with primarily adult populations. During the time that I had my own young children, I was working as a wellness coordinator at a college. It pained me to see these young adults with so much potential, already struggling to overcome issues from their childhood. I realized that if I truly wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives I needed to focus my work at the beginning of the age spectrum. I then went to work for Head Start, coordinating comprehensive health services, and have been in early childhood ever since!

How do you hope to influence a stronger early learning system for Washington?

With balance. Health, early learning, and family support all need to weave together to support healthy child development. Not only are parents their child's first teacher, they are their child's first health advocate.

What was your first job?

Bagging ice for the sports fisherman (I grew up in a port town).

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

An astronaut (but a few sports injuries changed that dream)

What is your favorite childhood memory?

I have many. Most of them center on big family gatherings with extended family, friends, neighbors, and assorted pets.